

Amusements To-Day.
 Felt's Hippodrome—The Bowery, at 8 P.M.
 Felt's Hippodrome—H. H. Aspinwall.
 Empire Theatre—Tate, Doherty.
 Felt's Avenue Theatre—A New Way to Pay Old Debts.
 Grand Opera House—B. & C. Co.
 Lyceum Theatre—The Floor Manager.
 New York Opera House—John Mather.
 Bowery Theatre—The Merchant of Venice, Mr. C. Port.
 Ben Franklin Minstrels—Bowery and 3rd St.
 Theatre Comique—New Amsterdam.
 Troy Pastor's Pastoral Chapel of New York—Mather.
 Union Square Theatre—The Two Impostors.
 Wallack's Theatre—The Progress.

Bamboozling the Committee.

A great farce has been going on at Washington for the past week, which has thrown the reception of the dark-skinned King of the Sandwich Islands, with all its suspicious funkiness, quite into the shade.

The Committee of Ways and Means made a feint at the last session of investigating the corruption connected with the additional subsidy of half a million of dollars per annum for ten years which was voted to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company in 1872. The bottom facts were as well known then as they are to-day, together with the part played by RICHARD C. PARSONS and others in handling a share of the spoils. But there was no intention to find out anything not already exposed to view, and some members of the committee had personal reasons for not putting in the probe below the surface.

When Congress came together two weeks ago, the President boldly recommended this subsidy in his annual message, and the new Postmaster-General included the additional half million in his regular estimates, which even CLEWELL would not put up without new legislation, and he was rarely troubled with scruples where large money grants happened to be at stake. It was arranged, too, that the appropriation was to be reported from the committee at the proper time by Mr. GARFIELD's tactics.

In this state of facts, and with the legacy of an incomplete inquiry from the last session, the investigation had to be resumed, and Mr. DAVIS sought to make a virtue of necessity, as Mr. BLAINE did when he came down from the Speaker's chair to move a restricted resolution in the Credit Mobilier robbery, and thus prevent a broader investigation under adverse head.

RICHARD B. INWIS, who had handled three quarters of a million at least of the corruption fund, and perhaps much more, was known to be here, and as his absence was the alleged ground of the previous failure, no satisfactory excuse was possible for further delay.

This important witness was taken to Washington with great parade and at no small cost, in charge of the Sergeant-at-Arms and his attendants. He had hardly reached the capital, before two counsel appeared before the committee and demanded his services for his non-appearance, but without a medical certificate. Then a physician was employed as a matter of course, and with a profitable patient on hand who wanted to be kept ill, it was easy to carry it to nervous prostration and other things.

So the committee appointed a sub-committee, consisting of Mr. DAWES, Mr. KASSON, and Mr. BECK, who carried the dignity of the House of Representatives to Mr. INWIS's lodgings, and examined him with the doctor's hand on his patient's pulse to stop all exciting questions. They were very tender in the use of the probe, and with mysterious winks and hints gave out that INWIS was not shamming, that he was direct and would tell everything after first preparing the way by an intelligible general statement of his relations to the company and the responsibility for the use of this money.

While these little dramatic scenes were performed, and the examination was checked day after day by the pretended bodily exhaustion of the witness, and occasionally a seeming weakness of mind, Mr. INWIS was quite able to receive intimate friends of Mr. GARFIELD and other eminent patriots in Congress by the hour, and to discuss delicate questions with them, the suggestion of which shocked his nerves in presence of the sub-committee.

After eliciting the sympathy of these mild-mannered impostors and getting it circulated in every newspaper that he had met their fullest expectations, Mr. INWIS suddenly concluded to close his lips and laugh in their faces. He had used the committee instead of their using him, and then coolly turned the tables by informing them he could not violate confidence by telling how the money was spent or to whom it was paid.

With that news got spread abroad at the capital on Saturday night, "distinguished members" of both houses who had been sitting on the rags-edge of anxiety for five days, and were fearing to be obliged to step down and out, drew a long breath of relief, and united in applauding the heroism of a witness who stood fire so bravely. They could not do him too much honor.

That plan was preconcerted is now clear to every astute observer. But it is probable that appeals of the most urgent kind were made to INWIS in Washington, not only by the intemperate corn-poilists in Congress, but by others holding conspicuous positions in the executive department, who participated in the plunder and who have urged with all their official influence the appropriation now asked of Congress. They saw gain and disgrace pending, and begged for mercy. Others, too, connected with the company wanted the dark veil of mystery hung over these transactions, and were perhaps willing to pay liberally for silence.

INWIS went to Washington knowing well the extent of the penalties that would attach to a refusal to answer the committee. He counted the cost of a brief detention in the Capitol as a small price, with every luxury at command, and knew how levers on the floor, with retainers in their pockets for the subsidy, would argue that he must be released before the final adjournment on the 3d of March, as the House would expire by limitation of law on that day.

The judgment of Congress who were brought in to witness the trial of the men who were elected to office in this State last fall arouses a strong suspicion that they can't get away with it, and are therefore trying to get around it by dishonorable devices.

It is well to be guilty of bribery; indeed, the practice is more stringent in one or two particulars than has been generally supposed.

The oath does not merely relate to bribery by the payment of money. It specifies "money or other valuable thing." Then, too, the money or other valuable thing need not have been paid over. It is enough that it was promised, or even offered, directly or indirectly, for the giving or withholding of a vote.

But the oath goes still further. It requires the person to swear that he did not make "any promise" to influence the giving or withholding of a vote. This is the case with a minister as for any other gentleman? People in this city go to balls and parties at eleven o'clock and get home at three. We do not think these hours are conducive to health; but they are observed by church members in good standing and others no less respectable. Now how long can a minister stay? And at what hour must he be trustee? Must it be twelve o'clock, or eleven, or ten, or half-past nine? This could be easily arranged as soon as the right hour is determined upon by having an alarm attached to his watch that would go off like thunder at the appointed hour. At first the noise would produce a little surprise and consternation in a drawing room, but it would soon be understood, and then it would not

be the motion of opening the doors, and then shut them close as soon as INWIS appeared. That proceeding justly attracted suspicion, which the result has now fully confirmed. Certain members have been playing a double part in this business, and as Col. BIXBY used to say, have "bamboozled," others who were supposed to have cut their eye teeth years ago.

Damon and Pythias.

If the First Lord of the Admiralty in England should be known to be jilting with a greedy applicant for contracts from his department, eating his dinners, gazing his wines, and cruising about in his steam yacht, how long would he be tolerated in office or in the society of decent Englishmen? He would be kicked out of his place the next day after the discovery, so utterly destitute of character that he would find life in England too galling for endurance. This would happen in England, How is it here?

There is a man named WARD who for a dozen years has been hanging about the lobbies of the Capitol and the ante-rooms of the War and Navy offices, picking up such contracts for making and spoiling guns as he could find officials and Congressmen corrupt enough or stupid enough to give him. The Treasury is lighter by thousands of dollars by reason of this man's projects. Yet WARD has never made even an experiment in gunnery of the least value. He used to carry into the Capitol during the war chunks of old cast iron, and discourse on them to gaping Senators and Representatives. At the same time he was writing pamphlets of claptrap scuttle about ordnance, and doing all he could to disparage our heavy guns, when these were the most important weapons the country had to rely on. He used to go about with models of glass guns in his pockets, gather a crowd of Congressmen, and stick a red-hot poker in the bore and hold it there until the glass cracked. Then he would say: "Here, gentlemen, you see what happens with our great guns when they are fired?" This was the illustration of WARD's new patent for constructing ordnance. As a result of all this scientific jargon and rigmarole, he got a contract for constructing at Trenton some cannon on the famous new plan. They were known as the car-wheel guns, and were ludicrous failures. There was nothing about them that was worth a moment's attention. On the first fire they burst into a thousand fragments, scattering the pieces over half the State of New Jersey. They cost the Government in the neighborhood of one hundred thousand dollars. This was in the era of President LINCOLN. There was some excuse for him, for WARD was not then so well known as he became afterward.

WARD was kept quiet for several years by this little reverse. Yet he doted around Washington, getting the lay of the land. He thought that INWIS was a man of untiring energy, and took a deep interest in the improvement of naval gunnery. He was a man after WARD's own heart. His scientific education and intimate knowledge of the theory of projectiles enabled him to select at once on the cardinal features of WARD's patent system of rifling cast-iron guns—that is to say rifling the Treasury. WARD, too, was ready to strain a point and spend no end of the people's money. But WARD was not content with this single capture. He also went for that distinguished marine gunner, DAVE RODERICK, who forthwith supplied him with one of his strong letters recommending the opening of the Treasury in order to test the merits of this great invention. But even this was not enough. WARD smiled on the ordnance departments of the army and navy, and made them to understand that if he didn't "get something" neither should they. This kept them still, though under breath they damned WARD and all his idiotic gunnarks.

WE got the money and forthwith proceeded to set his scenes on Nut Island, in Boston harbor. He hired a steam yacht, filled her magazines with wines, liquors, and cigars, and invited RODERICK to cruise about the New England waters with him. They had a jolly time; but meanwhile WARD's plan at Nut Island burst to pieces, as everybody who understood gunnery expected. He had received from Congress \$40,000 for the experiment, but RODERICK was so fond of him that he added \$30,000 to that, with the idea of snatching it into his estimates. The Nut Island guns burst one after the other, after a very few rounds, but nothing short of nitro-glycerine could sunder the bonds of friendship between RODERICK and WARD. Their idea was a grand one, and worthy of the world.

But we think the conviction of Mr. GLDENNING ought to be reversed.

We have information which leaves no room for doubt that the programme agreed upon by the carpet-baggers and their supporters in the House from the old slaveholding States have held a caucus in Washington, and passed half a dozen resolutions setting forth their grievances, and demanding certain specified legislation for their part of the country, and vehemently insisting that they—the members aforesaid—are entitled to more consideration at the hands of the Republican party than they have received. These gentlemen do not exactly threaten to break things at the South if they are not listened to, but they say, and they say it boldly, that if their advice is not heeded, Grantism in the States below the Potomac and the Ohio will speedily go to the dogs.

The great excitement on such subjects which has prevailed is sure to be productive of good. If there are any evil-minded men among the clergy—and we hope there are not—it will make them afraid and more cautious; while, at the same time it renders other people more suspicious, wary, and watchful.

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The Carpet-Baggers in Council.

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Not More than \$100,000 nor Less than \$50,000 Annual.

The Mayor of New York will be admitted to the sale of salaries for \$10,000 and the other for \$50,000, made in favor of the Brooklyn Savings Bank on the residence of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher at 123 Columbia Heights, were yesterday canceled from the Register of the Office in the King's County Court House, and another mortgage of \$100,000 in favor of the United States Trust Company, was substituted in its place.

The \$100,000 mortgage was entered on May 1, 1869, to be repaid into the bank on Dec. 1, 1870.

Mr. BEECHER left all his property to his wife, except \$2,000 each to his sons, John E., George, and Edward, and \$2,000 to his daughter, Mary, and his wife, Mrs. BEECHER, received \$20,000.

Mr. BEECHER died on Aug. 1, 1870.

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